

# memorandum

DATE: August 1, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEPR-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Nathan Mullen  
Civil Engineer – TELP-TPP-3

**Proposed Action:** Wautoma-Ostrander Surface Impairment Removal

**PP&A Project No.:** 2361

**Categorical Exclusions Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3,  
Routine maintenance

**Location:** Project activities would take place in Klickitat County, Washington, on the Yakama Reservation, Township 6N, Range 17E, Section 23.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to remove soil between structure 58/3 and 58/4 on the 500-kilovolt (kV) Wautoma-Ostrander No. 1 transmission line. Presently, the distance from the conductor to the ground surface does not have adequate clearance for operation at 100°C. BPA proposes to re-shape the existing ground surface in this area to achieve adequate clearance. The proposed work would allow BPA's Wautoma-Ostrander No. 1 transmission line to meet current National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) standards for operation at 100°C.

To address the surface impairment, BPA proposes to remove approximately 1.5 feet of soil and/or rock from an area approximately 50 feet x 75 feet at the location of the impairment between structure 58/3 and 58/4. This would generate approximately 10 cubic yards of material that BPA proposes to spread adjacent to the surface impairment or utilize as fill for separate BPA project nearby. Where possible, the topsoil would be preserved and spread over the final disturbed area. Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be placed prior to, and after, the work to limit potential erosion and sedimentation. All disturbed areas would be revegetated with native, or otherwise appropriate, grasses. Equipment that would be likely to be used for this project, and would be likely to disturb the ground, would include a combination of the following: a dump truck, a bulldozer, a backhoe, an excavator, and work trucks.

**Findings:** BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). The proposed action

does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements. This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Oden Jahn

Oden Jahn

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur: /s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 1, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Wautoma-Ostrander No. 1 Upgrade Project, Surface Impairment Removal Between Structures 58/3 and 58/4

**Work Order #:** 00297149

**This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.**

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
On July 30, 2012, the Yakama Nation THPO concurred with BPA's determination that no archaeological resources would be affected. If cultural resources are discovered during the course of construction, all work shall cease immediately and the environmental representative and Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program should be notified. Work may not resume until the site has been cleared by the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program.		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Populations of gray wolf, bull trout, Ute ladies'-tresses and northern spotted owl occur far outside of the project areas. Further, the project areas do not provide the required habitat conditions for the above-mentioned species. The project areas are not adjacent to any recorded anadromous fish usage, and BMPs would be installed such that project activities would not affect the water quality of nearby surface waters. For the above reasons, it was determined that this project would have "No Effect" on these listed species, critical habitat and EFH.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Oden W. Jahn

Date: July 31, 2012